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FOR

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PROGRAM

CBS Morning News

STATION

WDVM TV

CBS Network

DATE

January 20, 1983

7:00 AM

CITY

Washington, DC

SUBJECT

Possible Argentine Bases in Antarctica

MORTON DEAN: Reports from London say the Royal Air Force has expanded its patrol of the waters around the Falkland Islands. This is in response to intelligence reports revealed by CBS News that Argentina seems to be preparing new attacks on British targets in and around the islands.

Bill Lynch, our Pentagon correspondent, has more on that.

BILL LYNCH: According to U. S. intelligence sources, Argentina has set up military operations at bases in Antarctica. apparently to gain a southern attack route against the Falkland Islands. No details were provided on the Argentine military operations, but sources suggested that fighter bombers could reach targets in the Falklands if they had midair refueling from tanker aircraft. Argentina has a number of outposts on the Antarctic Peninsula, about 800 miles south of the Falklands.

Both Britain and Argentina ratified the 1961 Antarctic Treaty, which set aside territorial disputes for 30 years and bound the parties to use the barren continent for peaceful purposes only.

Argentine raids from the south would complicate the job of British forces defending the Falklands, who have directed their radar and air defenses westward to the Argentine mainland. U. S. intelligence sources noted yesterday's Argentine denial that it is preparing for new military moves on the Falklands. They said they didn't believe them.

Bill Lynch, CBS News, Washington.